

Just Supposing

HERE is a case in point:

A new office building, sixty stories high, is erected in New York. Conveniently situated and well appointed, it is soon full of tenants, who pay well in their rent for all that they get.

In such a building the elevator service is, of course, the very life of the shell, and a battery of smooth running cars are kept busy from morning to night carrying the tenants and their business associates up and down, so that to question, "How do you dare have an office way up on the fifty-sixth floor?" the answer is, "Why with our elevator service, it is really no different from working on the mezzanine."

With a reputation for quick service like this, the building soon becomes the most popular one in town, and the high rents are considered well spent in view of this advantage.

As there is a general feeling among real estate men that the owners of buildings ought not to own their elevator service, a franchise is granted to an operating company to run the elevators for a certain term of years.

Then later there is a strike among the elevator employees. They walk out in a body and it is impossible to get efficient operators to take their places. Consequently the elevators do not run.

Tenants whose offices are above the tenth floor congregate in the lobby and send for the representative of the owners.

"We can't get to our work," they say. "What are you going to do about it?"

"We are very sorry," say the owners, "but, you see, we have no say in the matter at all. The operating company handle the running of the elevators for us, and the strike is on the part of their employees, not ours. It is a matter for them to settle between them. We will do all that we can to bring them together, but you really see that our hands are tied."

"But we pay you rent for our offices, and this situation makes them absolutely useless, as neither we nor our clients can reach them. If we had known that this would be the case, we could have taken quarters somewhere else. Surely, the largest office building in the world has enough to say about its own service to make it a safe place to work?"

The owners of the building shake their heads.

"I'll tell you what we'll do," they say. "We'll go to the elevator company and we'll go to the striking operators, and we'll try to get them to arbitrate, and inside of three or four months we'll have the thing patched up."

How fortunate that such a condition could not really happen in our city. For you must have guessed by now that this is only make-believe, and that the absurdity comes in the idea of the owner of the building not owning his own elevator service.

WHAT ENGLAND IS DOING

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Indeed, the only way of obtaining anything like a just view of what is really happening in the war is for the individual to do a little coordinating on his own behalf; to look at the Russian offensives, for instance, in connection with the heroic resistance of the French at Verdun. It was this resistance which reduced the mobile elements of the enemy to the points when the Russian attack was sure of success. The Allies have consistently worked on the principle that the lives of men are more than time or money, though, as a writer in "The Westminster" said of the Russian offensive: "It appeals more to the imagination to take towns and force the passage of rivers and recover territory—that fetish of the uninformed—than to break up attacks or a range of shell-scarred hills and to stand up against jets of liquid fire." Yet the Russians themselves will certainly not be niggardly in tribute to the splendid valor of the Frenchmen who enabled them to do these things. And in this great co-operation of the Allies it is after all most satisfactory that the French themselves should speak of the part played by England.

It may be repeated there is poetic justice in the fact that, alarmed by the preparation for the British offensive, the Germans massed their strength to meet it; that the British in turn are now paying their share in flesh and blood, and that the French, who bore the brunt so long, are breaking through.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY---By Rea Irvin

A German Spy

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times follow his quarry into the building. In that case the white and pink confetti tells the story. The paper fragments are entirely inconspicuous, and as for chalk marks, they are not noticed by any one. Many a detective chalk mark has been taken for the idle prank of some strolling boy. The color of the chalk differs with the days of the week, with some operatives. The person who last follows up the marks does what he can with a wet handkerchief to obliterate them, and by standing with his back to the wall for a moment he can do so very deftly without arousing the slightest attention on the part of passers-by.

When the chalk mark is missing the second or relay sleuth is convinced that his predecessor on the case or the present incumbent of the case is in the block. He walks back after making certain that he did not take a car at that point, which would be revealed by the confetti on the ground. If the object and the trailer are in the block they will be soon seen or a flock of confetti will show near the entrance.

These means are not always available, especially since the advent of the automobile. Yet the turns of the road can be easily determined if both the object and the trailer use machines.

This difficulty has been overcome by the fact that few licensed chauffeurs dare to refuse the cooperation with the police and none of the out-of-town drivers can be long unknown to authorities. If the object drives his own car he is automatically traced by his license and the garage arrangements that demand registration of every foreign car. Yet if the object drives his own car about town all day the only way in which he can be observed is by trailing or preceding in another.

With the small piece of mirror used as a periscope the cleverest men precede instead of follow their objects. In street cars, for instance, the trailer often sits in front of the object and observes his motions with the little piece of glass. The apparent adjusting of a pair of spectacles or the twirling of a mustache will enable the trailer to observe the person sitting behind, when the small mirror is concealed in the palm of the hand.

Few persons believe that a person walking ahead or sitting in front of them are "following" them, and many are thrown completely off their guard.

Another important factor is the telephone espionage. Few secret messages can now be sent by a suspected person through the hotel telephones. Every word is usually recorded by shorthand operators that are let in on the line and even the scraps of torn paper from the waste baskets of the rooms of suspected guests are pasted together on transparent paper and turned over to the police. Names in hat bands, tailors' labels in clothes and other details are observed and reported, and woe be to the one who registers under a different name than that of the labels in his coat.

Where there is the slightest incongruity there will be the most strenuous system of espionage until the suspect is either in the toils or the authorities are satisfied that he or she is harmless.

Invisible paraffined pages are often placed three or four sheets down in pads of telegraph blanks so that copies are obtained of messages when powdered charcoal is shaken over the paraffined sheets. Wherever the paraffined impressions are the charcoal will adhere and the lettering comes out quite clearly. By varnishing the copy a permanent copy is obtained, and such copies are often produced in evidence. Also every telegraph office in Germany is open for inspection by the secret service men.

More than one-half of the higher class spies are required to have some ostensible avocation or business, and frequently their wives and children or their most intimate friends do not know that they are in the service. They receive their salaries in the most roundabout ways at times, and are, as a rule, not extravagantly or even well paid. The members of the Emperor's staff get from five thousand to twenty-five thousand marks per annum and a bonus upon special performance.

The cost of maintaining the espionage system of Germany previous to and during the war has been enormous, but those who know declare that the results are well commensurate with the expenditures.



Socrates Invents the Ear-Muff, October 8, 416 B. C.

ARE WOMEN PEOPLE?

By Alice Duer Miller

Campaigner's Garden of Verses.

(With apologies to R. L. S.)

In suffrage states I say I would
Emanipate all womanhood,
But South and East, the other way,
"My party first" is what I say.

Now, does it not seem hard to you,
When I should like to say what's true,
The politicians all advise
That I must tell these awful lies?

No one can ever again say that women
who believe in the vote are trouble-makers.

On the contrary, they are distinguished
peace-makers.
They have accomplished what many
would have thought impossible.

They have reconciled the two great
parties on a fundamental issue.

They have made the Republicans
adopt a states' rights position.

And the Democrats an anti-Democratic one.

They have, in short, forced the two
parties into an almost identical attitude,
which might best be defined as follows:

Whereas, Women now vote in twelve
states and one territory; and,

Whereas, We need every vote we can
get; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we say everything to
inspire the belief in the minds of the
women voters that we favor the enfranchisement of their sex, while in the unenfranchised states we carefully avoid taking any practical steps toward the accomplishment of that end.

And, of course, if women betray the
slightest dissatisfaction with the situation,
it will be proof that they are growing
hard, distrustful and unlovable, just
as the antis have always said.

Said President Wilson to Mr. Hughes:
"Yes, yes; but what are your party's
views?"

"Well, do you know what those plat-
forms meant?"

Said Mr. Hughes to the President.

Some people keep on insisting that
politics have nothing to do with women.

The Massachusetts Legislature has,
according to "The Woman's Journal,"
failed to pass twenty bills of benefit to
women and children.

Among these are the following:

To provide woman guards and probation officers for women prisoners.

To raise the age of consent above sixteen years.

To require physicians to report cases of abuse of girls under sixteen.

A hotel registry bill, recommended by the White Slave Commission.

To allow matrons and scrubwomen employed by the city of Boston to get a two weeks' vacation, like women in the public employ.

To allow women to serve on health boards.

To give women cleaners in public employment the prevailing rate of wages that women cleaners in private employment receive. (There is already a law to this effect for men in public employment.)

We hope that the woman who was struck in the face by a subway guard in one of our unenfranchised states was an anti-suffragist.

We hope this, not in any spirit of antagonism, but because in that case there would not be added to her physical suffering the mental anguish of realizing that she was not getting her full meas-

ure of chivalry in exchange for her disfranchisement.

Besides which she can comfort herself by saying that if she had stayed at home it would not have happened.

THE SAFEST PLACE.

"No woman in the state has been insulted, beaten, choked or murdered at the polls. Since the vote has been bestowed on the women of Illinois all these things have happened to women in their own homes."—Rheta Childs Dorr, in The New York Evening Mail.]

Go out to the polls, my Mary,
For a girl is safer there
Than she is in any place on earth.

But if you stay home, beware!
It's dangerous up on a ladder,
Dangerous lighting a stove;

When Aunt was hanging the clothesline out
Five stories down she dove,

It's a risky place, my Mary,
Though both of us hold it dear;

But more women die at home, you know,
Than anywhere else each year.

So don't stay home, my darling,
Get used to your vote in youth;

For no one ever heard of a girl
Who died in the polling booth.